



**INCOMING AIRGRAM**

*Department of State*

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Action

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FROM: USMISSION BERLIN

Info  
RMR

TO: Secretary of State  
Ambassador Bonn

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G-52

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Two incidents, both of minor nature occurring within past few days may serve to give an indication of tenor of lower echelon Soviet reaction in Berlin area to Khrushchov's November 10 speech.

1. During a routine check of the Berlin-Dremmerhaven train at Marienborn November 13 the U.S. Train Commander, Lt. Richard Linke, reported the following conversation took place.

"Capt. Scirnov (the Soviet checkpoint officer) asked me what the news-paper said about Berlin. I said 'you mean Khrushchov's speech?' The Capt. then went on to say that Khrushchov had said more than just talk about Berlin. He then mentioned the election coming up and said that maybe the East Germans would take over his job at the checkpoint. He said that everyone but the French, British and Americans already checked through the East Germans. He asked why didn't we - I said the U.S. does not deal with the East Germans. He said maybe there could be another blockade - I asked who would do the blockading - he then said he was only a small man, he did not know, he had only said maybe. He then talked of the Potsdam agreement and said in effect it was not being adhered to except by the Russians. He was still talking when we had to get on the train to leave."

2. In response to a comment by a U.S. Air Force officer assigned to BASC that he was planning to send some recently purchased silver items out of Berlin, the Soviet duty officer captain inquired facetiously if the U.S. officer was certain that he would be able to get his silver out. The Soviet captain continued stating that in view of Khrushchov's recent remarks there was a possibility that the Autobahn could be "closed for repairs as was done in 1953".

Mission's officers are unable to recall that the Autobahn was closed in 1953.

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